Sparks

Spring 1997

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Inside

NCTS Jacksonville/NCTAMS LANT DET Key West High Frequency (HF) Realignment

By Steven Gielarowski, HF Program Manager, NAVCOMTELCOM

As a result of CNCTC claimancy wide downsizing/consolidation efforts and guidance outlined by the Department of Defense (DOD) HF Rightsizing Plan, the NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville/NCTAMS LANT DET Key West HF realignment was conceived. HF Broadcast coverage patterns from NCTS Cutler, NCTAMS LANT DET Key West and NCTS Puerto Rico indicated that high power HF assets could be downsized at NCTS Jacksonville.

An approval process which included site surveys and briefings, the involvement of CINCLANTFLT and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Instruction (JCSI) resulted in the authorization to consolidate high power HF assets from NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville to NCTAMS LANT DET Key West. The project was divided into two phases.

The CNCTC claimancy AN/FRT-96

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NATO Communications Center: Self-sufficiency at its Best

By LTJG Jesse Gobeli, Facilities Officer, NAVCOMTELSTA Iceland

Iceland's NATO Communications Center

Operating and maintaining the state-of-the-art NATO Communications Center facility is an unprecedented challenge for a facilities department.

The NATO Communications Center has thirty-inch reinforced concrete walls, a steel shell, and is a blast and High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse (HEMP) hardened facility. Every penetration for utilities, power, and signal is filtered against HEMP.

The facility, equipped with a chemical war mode lockdown, is protected against chemical, biological, and radiological

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Sparks

captain's corner

CAPT Michael P. Finn

Wow!

What an exciting time. Our family of C4 professionals located throughout the world are stepping out. Each Master Station, Station and Detachment is taking information technology solutions to a new level. From network operations centers providing internet protocol network management and domain name services; to expansion of satellite communications services in the military spectrums as well as commercial; to full service base information transfer of voice, video and data products, each NCTC location is on the move.

It is a tribute to the innovative spirit and technical know how of all of our civilians and military members that our sites are ready for the 21st century NOW.

If I were asked to characterize the future of C4 professionals in the Navy I would say as bright and shining as the sun. Information technology will be the enabler of our Navy's ability to conduct sustained combat operations at and from the sea. Your efforts today lay a solid bedrock of capability and knowledge for the future to make all other functional areas both more efficient and more effective. That means more combat power generating rounds on target!

I wish to challenge each of you to think of better ways to use the technology available. You must depart leaving your position better able to succeed than it was upon your arrival. A constant commitment by all to this strategy of improvement will ensure a Navy second to none.

I will be departing this command in July. It has been an extreme honor to be associated with each of you. I wish you the very best in your very bright futures.

Sparks

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CNCTC SAILOR AND JUNIOR SAILOR OF THE YEAR

The extremely difficult process of selecting the COMNAVCOMTELCOM Sailor and Junior Sailor of the Year has been completed. Congratulations to RM1(SW/AW) Marvin A. Taylor, the nominee from the NCTAMS LANT Region and to ET2 Richard J. Mulqueen, the nominee from the NCTAMS MED region for their selection.

The other outstanding nominees were: RM1 Linda M. Swearnigen from NCTC, RM1(SW) Jeffery A. Hurley from NCTAMS MED DET London, RM1 Larry J. Ballance from NCTS San Diego, DPSN Austin W. Reynolds from DCMS, RM3 Walter J. Jackson from NCTAMS LANT, and ET3(AW) Michael W. Addaman from NCTS Far East/ NAVCOMMDET Okinawa. The superb qualifications of each nominee were very impressive.

Petty Officer Taylor is the Message Center LPO at NCTAMS LANT. His previous assignments have been in USS PROTEUS (AS 19); NAVCOMMSTA Sigonella, Italy; Weapons Station Colts Neck, New Jersey; and NCTAMS WESTPAC. He earned his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualifications during a voluntary TAD deployment in USS BUTTE (AE 27). Petty Officer Taylor is an FTOC Watch Officer, has updated 41 SOPs, holds several collateral duties, is actively pursuing a degree, and is extensively involved in off-duty command and community activities.

Petty Officer Mulqueen is a Portable Equipment Pool Electronics Technician at NCTS Sicily. He was previously assigned to Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy. He provides maintenance, repair, installation, and user training of mobile communications equipment onboard U.S. and Allied commands throughout the Mediterranean Theater. He also is pursuing a degree in Applied Science Electrical Engineering Technology and is an active participant in command wide and community functions.

Petty Officers Taylor and Mulqueen will be invited to Washington, DC in July where they will be honored at the 1997 Sailor of the Year Awards Dinner. They will also be given a tour of the Pentagon and BUPERS, with introductions to the Director, Space, Information Warfare, Command and Control; to the Commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command; and to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

Both of these fine Sailors are extraordinarily dedicated and professional. They are a true representation of all the great Sailors in the NAVCOMTELCOM claimancy throughout the world.

MCTM(SS) Brian M. Robertson

ABFC Communications HQ 106/Readiness Unit One Wins 1996 Spectrum Award

By CDR Gerard Schoenfeld, Head, Reserve Affairs, NAVCOMTELCOM

ABFC Communications Headquarters 106/Readiness Unit ONE, from Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center (NMCRC) Washington, DC was named winner of the annual 1996 Spectrum Award.

The Spectrum Award is presented each year by Commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command (NAVCOMTELCOM) to the best overall reserve unit in NCTC's Program 15 claimancy. To qualify for the award, the 25 units in Program 15 are evaluated in the areas of mobilization readiness, training, retention, physical readiness, advancements, goals and objectives, and special accomplishments. Readiness Unit ONE distinguished themselves through outstanding performance in all of the evaluated areas throughout 1996.

Readiness Unit ONE, collectively 12 officers and 60 enlisted, is comprised of the following reserve units:

NR ABFC Command Headquarters 106

NR ABFC 1 LANT 1106

NR ABFC 4 LANT 806

NR ABFC COMM SEC 406

NCTS Washington Wins Golden Anchor

By NC1 Tracy Mix, Career Counselor Coordinator, NAVCOMTELSTA Washington

(l. to r.) ET1 Brackett, ET1 Henry, NC1 Mix, CDR Corcoran, MM1 Davis.

CDR Mimi Corcoran, Commanding Officer, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Washington proudly accepted the FY96 Golden Anchor Award from CAPT Michael P. Finn, Commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command (NAVCOMTELCOM) in March, 1997.

NAVCOMTELSTA Washington earned the prestigious award for the first time, in recognition of their leadership at all levels in developing and perpetuating a positive career information climate throughout the command. Command career counselor, NC1 Tracy Mix said: "We've always had a good program, but this year the dynamic leadership and positive attitudes of all the personnel involved in command career counseling made the critical difference between a good program and an outstanding one."

NAVCOMTELSTA Washington won in the medium size category for commands in the NAVCOMTELCOM claimancy.

NCTS/NCTAMS, continued from page 1

technical expert at NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler was named project team leader for Phase One which included deinstalling ten AN/FRT-96 transmitters at NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville and reinstalling them at NCTAMS LANT DET Key West. NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville was instrumental in deinstall-ing, packing and shipping equipment; NCTAMS LANT DET Key West contractors performed site preparation and installation of equipment; and NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler provided technical guidance throughout the project.

This phase was a "self-help" effort and was completed in January, 1997.

Phase Two will begin soon with completion scheduled for late FY-98. This phase will carry out turnover of land and facilities to the local host.

Through the efforts of NAVCOMTELSTA Cutler, NCTAMS LANT DET Key West, and NAVCOMTELSTA Jacksonville (under the auspices of NCTAMS LANT Regional Plans), Phase One was completed on schedule.

This project has received high level attention and visibility. It was briefed at the Joint HF Global Executive Program Management Review (EPMR) in March 1997; JCS, CNO and Air Force are greatly impressed with this "self-help" effort, the swiftness of project completion, and cost savings to Navy, DOD, and the taxpayer. As such. this project affirms the obvious benefits of regionalization and joint efforts.

An Update From "Down Under" at Diego Garcia

By ENS G. Diverno, Technical Control Officer, NAVCOMTELSTA Diego Garcia

The Automated Communications Systems Division (ACSD) at Diego Garcia, formerly referred to as the Message Center, is in the process of transitioning all command users of the Message Distribution Subsystem (MDS) utility to cc:Mail for General Service (GENSER) message delivery. This is the beginning of an effort to reduce the number of software utility products and standardize message delivery software throughout the command. By reducing the variety of software programs utilized, the command will benefit financially and operationally.

Current projects in the Automated Data Processing Division include: developing and planning Diego Garcia's strategy for transition to the Defense Message System (DMS) Program; increasing Internet bandwidth from 56KBS to 128KBS; exploring methods to extend Internet E-mail connectivity to afloat COMSRON staff operating in the local area; upgrades and improvements to both classified and unclassified LANs; and the activation of "Telecommunications Radiation" (TELRAD) via an Internet router. TELRAD will enable the on-island Medical Clinic to pass X-RAY data to Navy medical facilities stateside for review and consultation. TELRAD is an interim solution to medical needs with a full Telecommunications Medicine (TELEMEDICINE) Program as a long term goal. These programs potentially can save thousands of dollars each year by reducing the need for MEDEVAC flights. Special thanks to NAVCOMTELSTA Pensacola for their outstanding assistance in the above endeavors!

The Technical Control Division is undergoing numerous upgrades in existing connectivity and equipment, as well as the installation of the Navy's newest and technologically advanced

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warfare. During lockdown, outside utilities are shut off, pressure is built in the building, and intake air is filtered against contaminants.

The Facilities Department has the awesome responsibility of performing lockdown procedures, and operating all this equipment during a lockdown. To facilitate this process, they developed a standard operating procedure manual with complete step-by-step lockdown procedures. The manual also describes recovery procedures for various equipment failures or problems. Additionally, the Facilities Department holds rigorous bi-weekly training on lockdown procedures, and regularly practices emergency procedures.

While in lockdown, it is entirely self-sufficient. In this respect, the building is actually more of a ship than a building. Power is provided by two 900 KW diesel engine generators, and a 15,000 gallon under floor fuel tank. Fire fighting and potable water is provided by a deep water well (200 feet below grade). Water is stored in a 62,500 gallon under floor storage tank. As such, fire fighting becomes a damage control function. Fires can be put out and smoke exhausted without ever opening the building. A 30,000 gallon tank holds raw sewage until it can be pumped away. Time in lockdown is limited only by the food and fuel supply.

Roger Receives National Australia Day Council Award

Ron Rogers, N4, NCTAMS WESTPAC Guam (right), receives Australia Day Medallion from members of the Royal Australian Navy

Mr. Ron Rogers, N4, NCTAMS WESTPAC, Guam was recently awarded the Australia Day medallion from the National Australia Day Council commemorating his contribution to USN/RAN submarine and ship communication.

Australia celebrates its National Day on the 26th of January each year. As part of this event, the National Australia Day Council awards a limited number of unique medallions to individuals who have contributed significantly to the Australian way of life and development.

According to Rogers, "It is rare for this award to be presented to someone who is not an Australian citizen. I am honored to be one of this year's recipients." The award was presented in Washington, DC on the 7th of April 1997.

DIEGO GARCIA, continued from page 5

communications network. The Integrated Digital Information Exchange (IDNX) system is currently being installed. This state-of-the-art communications system allows a Network Operation Center (NOC) located in Wahiawa, Hawaii to tap into the 75 communications circuits which currently terminate on the island and perform fault isolation and restoration without any operator intervention by site personnel. A copper-to-fiber upgrade is also occurring on the circuitry for the USAF Ground Electro-Optical Deep Space Surveillance Detachment (GEODDS). The Navy's largest Global Weather Intercept Program (GWIP) site is also preparing for system enhancements. Operators at the GWIP site will soon transition from using seven 75 baud weather data circuits to one 9.6kbs multiplexed connection.

Until next quarter, the communicators "Down Under" at NAVCOMTELSTA Diego Garcia wish you all the very best in your journey into the Information Technology 21st Century (IT21). We look forward to networking with each station, and if an area mentioned above sparked your interest or you feel that you could provide us some advice, please send us an E-Mail using the office code listed above, "at" nctsdg.navy.mil (example: N3@nctsdg.navy.mil). We would appreciate hearing from you and sharing your accomplishments.

ABFC C3A Van Naval Reserve Contributory Support

By CAPT C. Cooper, Commanding Officer, NCTAMS MED

NCTAMS MED recently completed the major portion of a move within the Naples, Italy metropolitan area, from AFSOUTH NATO Base into new facilities at Capodichino Airport. This event included the complex relocation and refurbishment of two WSC-5 transceiver suites and system components. For three months, over 70 selected reservists, representing five ABFC C3A Mobile Communications Reserve Units, provided the means of maintaining critical restoral capability for the Indian Ocean and Arabian Gulf.

The van arrived in late December. In early January the initial set-up crew reported aboard, and the van's systems were lit off and tested, resulting in operational capability several days ahead of schedule. Restoral capability passed seamlessly to the van, permitting disassembly and removal of the WSC-5 UHF transceiver equipment as scheduled.

The ABFC C3A van maintained numerous circuits critical to the fleet for ten weeks without missing a beat. Of particular note, van management and operators/technicians rotated no less than five times as personnel performed planned 12-17 day annual training periods. Personnel turnovers were flawless, testimony to the high caliber of these citizen-sailors. The total dedication, teamwork and pure professionalism displayed by the men and women was truly impressive. A number of reserve personnel even devoted their off duty time to help remove, haul and reinstall WSC-5 components.

The bottom line: Transparent to our fleet customers...complete success in a crucial mission area...once again demonstrating the validity of the one Navy concept.

VIKING THUNDER 97-1: A Reality Check

By LTJG N. Marsh, Communications Officer, NAVCOMTELSTA Iceland

Rising like giant trees from the frozen tundra, the antenna fields of NRTF Grindavik and NRRF Rockville provide an inviting, and apparently easy target for Marine Aggressor Force to destroy. Initial intelligence on troop movements and force size is good. LTJG Jesse Gobeli, Commander of the Ground Defense Force (GDF), strategically places members of his force in preparation for the assault.

Undaunted by the bitter cold winter winds, the GDF members are ready and willing to challenge the Marines in the frozen volcanic fields of Iceland. The popping sound of small arms fire and the barking of orders disrupts the early morning calm and sets the stage for a long, hard day of ground warfare training.

Initially, the Marines make good progress in their bid to overrun the defenders at NRTF Grindavik. However, the GDF members are better acquainted with the boulder strewn fields and quickly stop the early advances of the Marines. In a bold move, the NCTS Iceland GDF shift their defense and outmaneuver the small Marine force. Their initiative forces the Marines to surrender.

Unfortunately, the fields of NRRF Rockville are wide open and more difficult to defend. NCTS defenders fight a hard determined battle, but in the end, they succumb to the better trained and equipped Marines. Because of the remote location of NRRF Rockville and NRTF Grindavik, NCTS Iceland is solely responsible for providing the initial ground defense for these vital communication centers.

While GDF members are actively involved in firefights with the Marines, communication watchstanders are involved in equally important battles. Exercise Evaluation Team (EET) members, RMC Richard Bozovich, ETC James Hadaway, and CWO2 Tom Clark, carefully coordinate drills that challenge the technical knowledge, experience and leadership of every division throughout the command. Exercises range from emergency recall actions, to writing and sending casualty reports (CASREPS), and firefighting procedures.

Communication drills are specifically designed to cascade from simple equipment failures to the total loss of vital communications links and systems. EET members evaluate troubleshooting knowledge, restoral procedures, firefighting ability and the accuracy of reports being submitted to the Communications Watch Officers (CWO). As a member of the Joint Exercise Control Group (JECG), RMCS Jerald Jackson evaluates the timeliness and accuracy of message reports submitted by NCTS Iceland.

In spite of RM1 Gregory Thomas' best efforts as the CWO, he occasionally gets bogged down in the flood of outage reports, equipment casualities and personnel status. DP1 Mike Burgess, a CWO U/I, is called in to assist in the submission of Situation Reports (SITREPS) and Operation Reports (OPREPS). It is only through the combined efforts of both CWOs that reports are submitted accurately and on time.

Because of the complex communications connectivity that NCTS Iceland supports, a CWO is required to assist

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NCTS Bahrain Reaches a Major Milestone

By RMC(SW/AW) Bret Ingold, SATCOM LCPO

Recently, NAVCOMTELSTA Bahrain successfully activated their first SHF termination with the USS ENTERPRISE. This termination proved to be near flawless with the assistance of COMUSNAVCENT, DCS STA Landstuhl and USS ENTERPRISE. Two of the major data systems provided were SIPRNET and JDISS via the TIMEPLEX Link 2+ system.

In the near future, the USS KITTY HAWK is scheduled to terminate with Bahrain utilizing the Automated Digital Network System (ADNS). ADNS provides uninterrupted data flow to network members during a single or multiple path failure by automatically shifting to alternate data paths. The termination with the KITTY HAWK will be the first termination of its kind with an afloat platform on an operational deployment.

NCTS Bahrain's ability to effectively terminate ships will greatly enhance C4I connectivity within the CENTCOM AOR.

Upgrading a 43 Year-Old Facility

By LTJG Jesse Gobeli, Facilities Officer, NAVCOMTELSTA Iceland

The new NATO Communications Center recently became the new home of NAVCOMTELSTA Iceland's message center and communications equipment, leaving behind its headquarters building which served for 43 years as the communications hub for the base.

The old building continues to serve as the administrative headquarters which consolidates the off-site training classroom and Base Communications cable plant.

Contractors will make some repairs and upgrades, but no upgrading of existing office spaces. In this instance, the NAVCOMTELSTA Iceland self-help program came to the rescue! Thanks to a crew of dedicated workers, new gypsum wall board, and new suspended ceilings have been installed, and over 3000 square feet of office space have been painted and carpeted. An impressive 500 man days have been expended.

The self-help program also stretched the dollars spent on the renovation contract. The crew completed over 250 man days of demolition work that the contractor did not have to do, including removing communications cabling, raising flooring, and suspending ceilings and equipment racks.

Self-help workers frame a new wall

The self-help program continues to be a great way for NCTS personnel to get involved, sharpen their construction skills, and improve their working spaces at the same time!

Sparks

technical improvements

Base Level Communications Isn't Just Telephones

By LT Bettye Keefer, Base Level Communications Dept., NCTAMS WESTPAC Guam

What do you think of when you think of Base Communications? Telephones, Defense Switched Network (DSN), you know, the phone guys! Well think again. Base Communications has come a long way and is expected to continue growing by leaps and bounds, bringing us all into the 21st century technically equipped and ready for whatever Information Technology (IT) has in store.

NCTAMS WESTPAC is a prime example of what changes Base Level Communications has encountered. Not only is it the Navy and DOD telephone provider for the island of Guam, for which it has recently won the 1996 Multi-function Switch (MFS) of the Year award for the 7th consecutive time, but it provides a multitude of cutting edge techno services - voice, data and video base level communications services, and the final link between the Defense Information Systems Network (DISN), commercial and tactical gateways, and the Navy ashore users' desktop on Guam. NCTAMS WESTPAC's Base Level Communications personnel install, administer, operate and maintain the Guam Navy Base Level Information Infrastructure (BLII), Navy Defense Message System (DMS) services, and provide DMS transition support. They administer, operate and maintain critical Pacific DISN PCTN, DSN, NIPRNET and SIPRNET nodal switches. NCTAMS WESTPAC has one of the most extensive and complete BLII backbones in the claimancy.

Preparing cable for the BLII upgrade

What is BLII? It's the physical infrastructure that provides connectivity at ashore activities which includes inside and outside cable plants (wire/fiber). It is any connected equipment that is an integral part of the base infrastructure to include telephone switching systems, network concentrators, routers, servers, and all voice and data resources that meet these needs. NCTAMS WESTPAC's BLII has it all. It complies with or exceeds the CNO BLII Modernization Goals (CNO 051619Z DEC 95) to incorporate 'IT' at the base level to support the war fighter with high speed data communications of at least 10 mbps, has the ability to easily migrate to new technologies, is fully inter-operable with the DISN, has flexible growth and is manageable from central locations.

NCTAMS WESTPAC BLII services include DSN local and long-distance administrative telephones, point-to-point inter-island digital service (to 45 mbps)and global digital dial service supporting video teleconferencing (VTC). Additionally, it includes other data applications at speeds up to 800 kbps in multiples of 56 kbps, island-wide MAN connectivity and INTERNET access, global VTC and LAN, WAN, personal computer, DMS hardware/software installation, maintenance and support.

NCTAMS WESTPAC's Base Level Communications Department major systems include the Guam DSN digital multi-function switch at NCTAMS, DSN digital Remote Switching Centers (RSC's) at COMNAVMARIANAS, Naval Activities Guam, Naval Hospital and

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Radio Barrigada, a fiber optic backbone to all major Guam Navy facilities, DISN PCTN, NIPRNET and SIPRNET node sites, and the inter-island WAN. The Base Level Communications Department also provides INTERNET dial-in PPP connections, island-wide e-Mail services, hosts the NCTAMS WESTPAC and COMNAVMARIANAS www home pages and operates the centralized Integrated Management Support Center (IMSC).

Wow, what a MAN! Thanks to NCTAMS WESTPAC's Base Level Communications Department the island of Guam has a comprehensive MAN with a 10 mbps ethernet between the Guam NIPRNET router and the NCTAMS WAN-North router. It includes a single-mode (BLII standard) fiber backbone (capacity to 150 mbps) to all major bases/activities and has access to other base locations via copper at capacity of up to 1.544 mbps. Current MAN router connectivity is 1.544 mbps to NAVACTS and CNM with the CNM link scheduled for upgrade to 45 mbps in the next two months. There are routers available for deployment to other locations on the island. These services are continuously evolving to support mission requirements via the NCTAMS WESTPAC BLII 5-year Modernization Plan.

The NCTAMS WESTPAC Base Level Communications Department not only administers and operates the BLII and supporting systems, but plans, engineers, and installs telephone and data switches, fiber and copper cable plants, as well as telephones, key systems, modems, and any other communications systems that a commercial company would. In addition to on-island switch and cable projects, NCTAMS WESTPAC's Base Level Communications initiated and managed a project to relocate a Northern Telecomm DSN MFS from Osan AFB Korea to Diego Garcia, managed the cutover, and installed an island-wide fiber optic backbone extending the entire length of this remote Pacific forward base.

From fiber to wires, telephones to VTC's, e-Mail to voice mail, manholes to desktop to laptops, bits to bytes Base Level Communications does it all.

The next time you're out surfing the net, why not surf over to http://www.nctwp.navy.mil and visit NCTAMS WESTPAC's homepage. It was developed and made available to you by, you guessed it, NCTAMS WESTPAC's Base Level Communications Department. And you thought Base Level Communications was just telephones...

Joe Manibusan and Herman Roberto attaching innerduct to the winch line

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Iceland Defense Force (IDF) J6 in the Joint Command Post (JCP). RM1 Merlie Thompson calmly fields the steady stream of phone calls from the CWO. In turn, she provides the J6 expert guidance on the significance of the information received.

This may sound like an outline for a new Tom Clancy novel. But this is not fiction, this is reality. NCTS Iceland actively participates in NATO Base Keflavik's Viking Thunder (VT) exercises. VT exercises are designed to train members of the USMC, USN and USAF to fight in a Joint Environment as a single unit. Who won the winter war? More important than winning or losing were the lessons learned by the military members stationed in Iceland. Lessons that may save lives and protect valuable property if war should ever start.

technical improvements

NCTS Sicily SATCOM Modernized

By ETC(AW) Bissen, NCTS Sicily

"To provide secure long haul SHF communications support to COMSIXTHFLT and joint operational elements"

This is the mission that NAVCOM TELSTA Sicily, SATCOM Division strives to fulfill. The overall purpose of NAVCOMTELSTA Sicily is to provide quality telecommunication services and support to its customers through teamwork and continual process improvement. To further their capacity for achieving this mission, NAVCOMTELSTA Sicily is receiving Heavy Terminal/Medium Terminal (HT/MT) Modernization Upgrade. This will extend the life of the terminal for an additional 15 years, thereby saving money and time due to replacing and repairing old terminal equipment, and cutting down on satellite outages.

In January 1995, construction of the new addition to the SATCOM facility that will house the new equipment began. Construction was completed in September 1996. In December, the first of the AN/GSC-39B equipment arrived. Numerous steps were taken to prepare for the implementation of the Restoral Terminal (RT). When all communications traffic was switched over to the RT in January, the Antenna Group Refurbishment Team(AGR) began the refurbishment of the antenna.

To facilitate an easier transition from the old equipment to the new, an operator's course and a technician's course were conducted.

The upgrade is scheduled for completion in early May 1997 upon which SATCOM Sicily will become a fixed permanent site.

Mandatory Security Awareness Training

Public Law 100-235, the Computer Security Act of 1987, states that all federal agencies must provide computer security awareness training to all of their personnel who operate an automated information system. Please ensure you are in compliance.

Taking Meetings To A New Level

by Hugh Watts, Marketing Representative, NAVCOMTELSTA Washington

Sparks

new technology

What are two things that DOD officials do on a constant basis? No, it's not the Macarena and it's not surfing the net. It is planning and decision making.

Whether military or civilian, you must plan your work and work your plan. Planning and decision making often require pooling together the ideas of several people and, more often than not, that requires yet another meeting.

How much time do we spend in meetings? So much that an old cliche defines a manager as a person either coming from, going to, or sitting in a meeting.

Yet, far too many meetings are unproductive. They feature too much talking and not enough listening, too much assuming and not enough understanding, too much storming and not enough performing. Meetings which go in circles and never accomplish their objectives, where attendees don't participate, and where no consensus is reached can reflect poorly on both the meeting sponsor and the meeting task.

The Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Washington offers a cure for the meeting blues. A fee-for-service Navy activity, NAVCOMTELSTA Washington has combined a trained support staff using proven problem solving methods with the latest in meeting support software and hardware to provide a facility which answers the prayers of frustrated meeting sponsors and attendees.

After using the facility for a recent strategic planning offsite, RADM (Ret.) Katharine Laughton of the Naval Space Command said: "Unfortunately, we are forced to think in long term plans and visions but too often we have no idea how to get there. This facility provides a systematic framework for that very painful process with a minimum investment in time and dollars."

The Electronic Meeting Facility (EMF) is a high tech approach to planning and conducting meetings. Conveniently located at 5 Crystal Park, Crystal City, Virginia, the facility is designed to significantly increase the productivity of all types of meetings.

The support staff have extensive backgrounds in systems analysis and design in a DOD environment. They work with the customer to identify the meeting objectives and develop an agenda which accomplishes those objectives. The staff provides impartial facilitation during the meeting, and produces complete documentation of meeting results.

The facility offers three electronic meeting rooms with dual projection, comfortable individual work stations, top rated electronic meeting support software, and Internet access. In addition to the meeting rooms, the facility has a separate phone and fax room, a reception area, and break out rooms.

NAVCOMTELSTA Washington opened DoD's first electronic meeting facility at the Washington Navy Yard in 1993. In the years since then, many managers from Navy and other DOD agencies have maximized their results while minimizing time spent in meetings by utilizing this resource. "Commands and activities need a state-of-the-art conference facility that can maximize limited time available for meetings, especially when you're bringing people together from different locations," said CDR E. H. Lundquist, Commanding Officer of the Naval Media Center. The Media Center has 460 people assigned, with more than half of those personnel stationed at detachments around the world. "Time and money is limited. You have to accomplish a lot in a short time, so you need a conference facility that offers full service at low cost."

Brenda Besore, Operations Director at the facility, offers the view that "The EMF is a versatile tool for improving the productivity of collaborative efforts. We've successfully hosted everything from strategic planning to lessons learned, from requirements analysis to turn over and acceptance. Any time that several people are collecting, consolidating, analyzing, or prioritizing information, we can help. Our meetings are designed and conducted to

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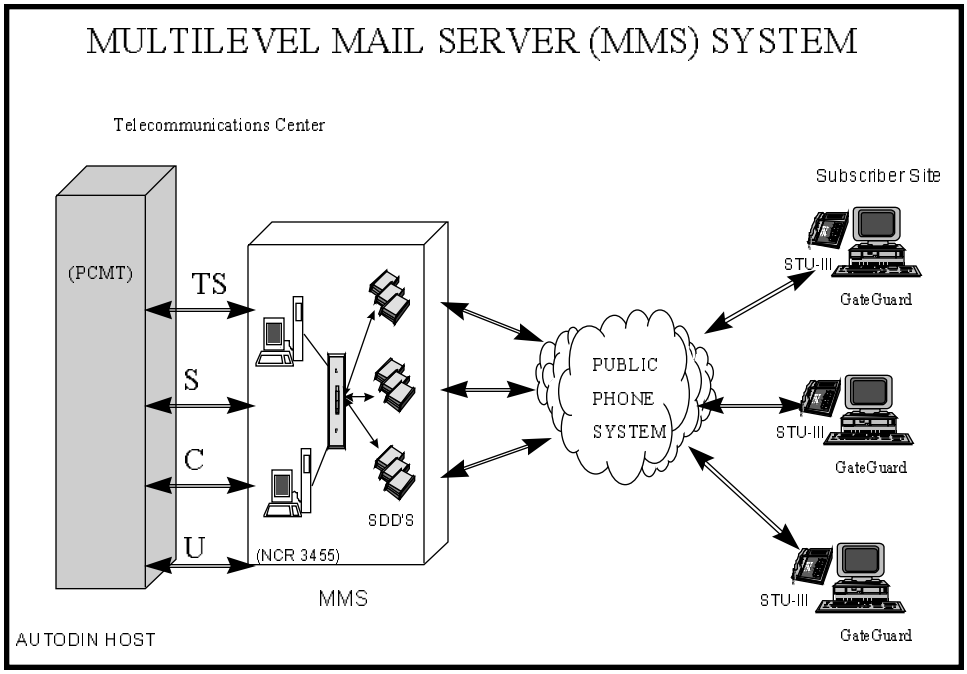
Sparks

new technology

MMS For the Millennium

by Faye Tolliver, NAVCOMTELSTA Washington



NCTS Washington MMS Configuration

Within the secure spaces of the NCTSW N3 communications center at the Washington Navy Yard is a system which quietly stores and passes official organizational messages between over 140 Washington-area subscribers and their AUTODIN host, PCMT/NOVA. Using the GateGuard, a specialized personal computer, and the STU-III, a secure telephone, subscribers connect to this system to send and receive AUTODIN messages.

At the communications center, no operator is involved as up to thirty subscribers simultaneously call in to transmit and receive their messages at security levels from unclassified to secret. The system in question is the Multilevel Mail Server, or MMS.

MMS is a communications system developed by NCTSW N91 as a Navy transition product to the Defense Messaging System (DMS). DMS, is the DOD replacement system for the aging AUTODIN, which has been around since the 1960s. Using a standard UNIX mail package and an NSA B1-certified, multilevel secure (MLS) UNIX operating system, the MMS provides temporary storage of messages between subscribers and their AUTODIN host, and is accredited by DISA to send and receive both classified and unclassified messages.

Originally designed in 1992, MMS operated on the AT&T 3B2 minicomputer, utilizing its UNIX operating system with a multilevel secure enhancement. During FY96, MMS software was ported to the National Cash Register (NCR) 3455 system, which operates at almost four times the CPU clock speed of the 3B2's, and uses the same UNIX operating system with MLS enhancement. Since July 1993, when the first system became operational at the Naval Telecommunications Center (NTCC) Cheltenham, MMS has

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enabled the Navy to close and consolidate communications centers to reduce costs. Today there are seventeen Navy MMS sites worldwide.

There are also two MMS sites which support the Single Agency Manager-Pentagon (SAM-P), servicing Army, Air Force and Navy subscribers. The SAM-P MMS currently runs on the AT&T 3B2 and uses the DOD Mode I protocol to support the Army's DINAH and the Air Force's SARAH and MDT subscriber terminals. Navy GateGuards can be configured to support Mode I.

Once installed and configured, the MMS operates essentially without human intervention. Manpower-intensive, over-the-counter service using paper or diskette media is eliminated. The subscriber controls message delivery according to the organization's priorities. Organizations which do not operate 24 hours a day can enjoy the convenience of secure message storage until normal duty hours. Messages which require advanced notification are identified as such in the subscriber's mailbox and can be retrieved without the use of a special courier run to the communications center.

Subscribers connect to MMS over the public telephone system. Security is maintained by the use of NSA-approved STU-III telephones at the subscriber end and Secure Data Devices (SDD's) at the MMS end. (SDD's are basically STU-III's without the handset).

Messages are retrieved from MMS and passed to stand alone subscriber terminals, such as, GateGuard and DINAH and MDT. At NAVCOMTELSTA Washington, and other commands, messages are forwarded from the subscriber terminal to a profiling and distribution system called MDS (Message Dissemination Subsystem) and delivered directly to cc:Mail users on the command LAN, which fulfills, in part, the objective of DMS: direct writer-to-reader delivery of official messages via electronic mail.

Currently MMS Release 3.0 is being developed to support top secret customers and increase download speed to subscribers.

As we approach the next millennium with the implementation of DMS, MMS is able to continue to provide support by replacing the unique AUTODIN protocol (Mode I and RIXT) software used to transfer messages to subscriber terminals with DMS-compliant software. There are also plans to implement paging for advanced notification and automatic message downloads at off-peak hours. With its modular design, MMS has the capability of being around a long time.

For further information on MMS, contact Bob Hinson, the NCTS Wash. project leader. He may be reached at 202-685-4154, DSN 325-4154, or Robert. Hinson@nctsw.navy.mil.

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achieve maximum results in the minimum amount of time. We feel that customers more than recover the cost of our services by cutting down on the amount of time spent in meetings and by the high quality of the results achieved."

CDR Mimi Corcoran, Commanding Officer at NAVCOMTELSTA Washington, is an enthusiastic supporter of the EMF. "As the Commanding Officer of a Navy activity, I understand what DOD managers are facing. We are all tasked with doing more with less. Downsizing and budget cuts mean that everyone has to work a little harder and a little smarter just to stay even. Our EMF concentrates the advantages of automation and structured analysis to help customers achieve this. We use it internally for strategic planning, to facilitate our TQL processes, and in defining requirements for our LAN and internal information systems." For more information or to plan your next meeting with the NCTSW EMF, please call 703-602-0888.

Memorial Day
May 26

Change of Command

• *NAVCOMTELSTA Sicily*
CDR Mary Anderson relieved CDR Susan Jannuzzi in May.